Procurement of turmeric by NAFED in A.P.

2438. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by cultivators of turmeric in Andhra Pradesh, on account of steep fall in its prices;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ameliorate the problems of the farmers;

(c) whether Government have directed NAFED to start procurement of turmeric from farmers at a remunerative price; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no steep fall in the prices of turmeric. The average price for the year 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (Till February) is Rs. 42.22/ Kg, 52.78/kg, 49.45/kg and 42.53/kg respectively.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government has not given direction to NAFED to start procurement of turmeric at a remunerative price. NAFED purchases turmeric from Nizamabad Area for export to Mauritius.

Ban on multinational in retail trade

†2439. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to ban the entry of multinational companies in the retail, to strengthen the domestic trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) (b) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 51% is allowed with prior Government approval, in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products. Guidelines notified, vide Press Note 3 (2006 Series), require:

i. Products to be sold should be of a 'Single Brand' only.

ii. Products should be sold under the same brand internationally.

iii. 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

The Government has recently entrusted a reputed research organisation, Indian Council for International Economic Research (ICRIER), to conduct a comprehensive impact assessment of the participation of large foreign and domestic companies in the retail sector with reference to the small scale retailers and vendors.

Smoking at common places

2440. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have prohibited smoking at common places;

(b) whether chewing tobacco at common places is permitted;

(c) whether sale of cigarette, beedi, gutka, etc. at common places is permitted;

(d) whether special facilities are provided to the tobacco products for sowing it; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such a discrimination with the smokers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No special facilities are provided (except supply of seeds to registered